

HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol.12 No. 03 - March, 2004

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In January, Kevin, KC9BZU was traveling out of country and unavailable. For that reason he was unable to prepare a letter from the President for the February 'Chatter. That responsibility then fell upon my shoulders. Even with the February deadline rapidly approaching and despite several warnings by Editor in Chief Pancho, the deadline caught me unprepared. I apologize to Pancho and the membership for not having a letter prepared.

Pancho does a great job of putting the 'Chatter together. It is a big job gathering articles, formatting and getting it to the proofreaders before the 'Chatter is ready for publication. I for one certainly do not want to add the responsibility of creating all the information presented in the 'Chatter to his work load.

The officers and from time to time individual members have contributed material for the 'Chatter. To them I say thank you. Everyone, myself included, has a hard time finding the time, energy or a topic that is relevant to amateur radio a time-consuming ordeal. We simply need help from the membership.

Please, please, please, consider submitting an article (or articles) to Pancho for publication. This article does not have to be that long; a couple of paragraphs are fine. I myself would rather see several short articles than one long

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article in the 'Chatter. We would like to have short pieces on a recent or memorable contact to you made. Perhaps a piece of gear that you recently acquired that exceeded your expectations or one that fell short. Anything please!

As these items of interest are submitted, Pancho can archive the ones that are not immediately used. We would eventually have a collection of articles that can be used for future 'Chatters when submissions slow down or when material for the Chatter is a bit light.

If you do not feel comfortable writing the article, see one of our officers or board members before a meeting. That person will be happy to take notes and arrange to have your article written. After all, a couple of paragraphs won't take that long to dictate.

We have a rich and experienced group of members with centuries of combined operating experience. MRAC members are buying and selling gear all the time with positive and negative views on that gear. One would think we would have endless supply of interesting stories or equipment reviews or likes and dislikes that could be presented within the pages of the Chatter. Heck, you could even respond to this letter from the Vice-president.

Brian K9LCQ

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mrac/](http://www.qsl.net/mrac/)

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MILWAUKEE AREA NETS

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Daily	5:00 - 7:15 AM	3.985	Badger Weather Net
Daily	6:00 PM	1.895	MidEast 160 m. Net
Daily	6-8:00 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida (SSB)
Daily	7:30 AM	144.155	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	WI Slow Speed CW Traffic
Daily	9:30 PM	3.792.5	Country Cousins Net
Mon.-Sat.	12:00 PM	28.380	10/10 International Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	3.994	Tech Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.865-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
Mon.	8:45 PM	146.670-	ARRL voice news (ARES)
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 m.SSB NET
Mon.	9:00 PM	146.670-	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Tue.	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. (CW)
Tue.	8:30 PM	223.500	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 m. SSB Net.
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 Internat. (Milw. Ch.) (SSB)
Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130	ARRL voice news
Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270+	Weather & Swap net.
hu.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 mtr. SSB Net.
Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Computer Net
Fri.	8:30 PM	28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)
Fri.	9:00 PM	145.390-	W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10mtr.
Sat	9:00 PM	146.910-	Saturday Night Fun Net
Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800+	FM-38 link to 146.88 Bar. SWAP Net
Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 Int. (MKE Ch.) (SSB)
Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910-	Information Net
Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600KHz -- 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

HamateurChatter

is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.⁰⁰ per year and run on a calendar year starting with January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Meetings are normally held at 7:00 PM. the last Thursday of the month except for December.

REMINDER

Check in to our nets on Friday evenings.

The **Ten Meter SSB** net is at **8:30 PM** on **28.490 Mhz. SSB**

Our **Two Meter FM** net follows at **9:00 PM** on our repeater @ **145.390 MHz** with a **- offset** and a **PL of 127.3 Hz**

Join us for Saturday morning breakfast at Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr. We usually meet at **8:00 AM**, and **order** around **8:15 AM**. Good food and Fellowship.

PROGRAMS

March

N/A

April

Don Michalski, W9IXG (our local ARRL Section manager), will present a program on **Wire Antennas** to head us into the antenna building season.

May

The May program will be the **Election of Officers** and our **Annual Auction**.

Future

Possible upcoming MRAC programs are:

- **Meteor Scatter**
- **Packet**
- A possible trip to the National Weather Office in Sullivan

Feel free to make suggestions of programs to our officers or board members.

Or if you would like to present a program, please step forward and let us know.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING FEB. 26, 2004

The M.R.A.C. membership meeting was called to order by the club's Treasurer, Joe, N9UX at 7:05 P.M. The portable microphone was passed for introductions.

Jerry, WA9CGE, read the minutes of the January membership meeting. A motion was made by Pancho, KA9OFA, and seconded by D.J., KC9AYO, to accept the minutes as read; the motion passed.

Joe, N9UX, the club Treasurer, gave the treasurer's report. He also provided the club's budget for the year. A motion was made by Pancho, and seconded by Ken, W9MOT to accept the report as read; the motion passed.

Old Business

Sherm, KB9Q, reported on the FM Simplex Contest sprint of February 8. A major part of the participation was on 2 Meters and 70 Centimeters. Sherm thanked all of those who "worked" the contest and reminded all to submit their logs.

Also, the West Allis Radio Amateurs' Club (www.warac.org) is sponsoring the Wisconsin QSO Party, March 13 - 15. See QST of Mar., '04, pg. 100, for more information.

The Central States VHF Conference will be held in Toronto, Canada, July 22-25.

A Field Day report was made by Jerry, WA9CGE, encouraging club members and non-members to set aside June 26th and 27th for our Field Day operations from Pioneer Village in Ozaukee county, near Fredonia. Jerry reminded the

group about our picnic on Saturday, June 26th. If you were there last year -- this year will be just as great (but hopefully the rain will stay away).

New Business:

The club and the board of directors are proud to announce that Jack Kraus, W9JK, and Roger Zaun, W9UVV, have been made Life Members for their continued membership in M.R.A.C.

Joe, N9UX, made a presentation of the M.R.A.C. Financial Budget for the year of 2004, to include monthly meeting costs, membership dues and contributions, newsletter costs, Field Day and picnic costs, and membership packets.

The membership has some questions concerning the W9RH M.R.A.C. Repeater. We have certain continuous costs, such as the phone bill, but our maintenance is minimal. The repeater and the peripherals were previously owned by the club and are paid for, and it is not expected the club will incur any other costs. But, the club would like to give a big "THANK YOU" to ALL of those members and non-members who contributed their time and expertise to accomplish this effort. (The technical side of the repeater will not be discussed here.) We continue to be the "Quiet One on 39".

A motion was made by Pancho, KA9OFA, and seconded by Sherm, KB9Q, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 P.M. Attendance was 39.

The program for the evening was an open forum on the latest proposal by the A.R.R.L. for amateur license changes. At

the beginning, Tom, KF9PU, one of our V.E.'s, and chairman of the N.C.V.E.C. spoke on some of the facets of proposed licensing changes and what the V.E.C.'s might be suggesting. Our moderator for the discussion was kindly done by Dick, W9JBE, an M.R.A.C. board member. We thank him for his efforts. A vote was taken of those attending concerning this A.R.R.L. proposal - 18 were for it and 12 were against.

Respectfully submitted by:



Jerry Wahlen, WA9CGE



NOMINATIONS ARE IN ORDER

At the May meeting MRAC will elect 4 officers and 2 directors who along with 3 carry-over directors will lead the club. Nominations occur at the April meeting. In order to make sure there is at least one person running for each office there is a nominating committee. The committee consists of Sherm Swanson KB9Q, Jack Hughes W9ULA and me. Of course we start with asking the current officers and directors if they wish to continue in their jobs. Due to publishing deadlines, we don't have definite answers from everyone yet, but so far, a lot of maybe's. For sure we need at least one person to run for a director position as Tom Fuszard is vacating that post after at least 6 years in that job (not counting previous stints at the board). Tom does continue as one of the managers of the MRAC VEC as well as being Chairman of the National Conference of VECs (NCVEC). Did you know that?

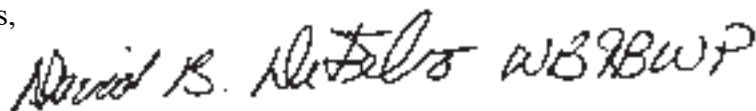
Anyway...in 2002 John Kraak, while serving as Chairman of the nominating committee made a fantastic speech at a club meeting about people running for office. I was tempted to ask John for a copy to be reprinted, but nothing could do it justice as having heard it from him in person. This club has been in existence for 87 years. That ranks it with only a handful of clubs who were around then and are still around. The club exists because people are willing to make an effort to see that it exists. Granted, free time in the 21st century is not like it was in 1950, but if you want to see something succeed you make time. In the 87 years of the club there have been 46 different people serving as President. 2 - year terms did not start until 1990. It is easy to see that many people served more than one term. The record was 9 continuous years as President. Even I did it for a total of 6 years (82-84 and 98-02).

Do you have something you would really like to see the club do? Do you have any ideas which are in need of additional help or input to happen? Do you really not like something the club does? All these and more are reasons to run for office. What is a common reason for not running? I'm too young. I'm too old. I'm too new. I've been around too long. I work long hours. I don't work at all. I've heard everything except, "I wash the car on nights you have board meetings." Well, we've had officers with children, officers who own a business, officers with multiple hobbies. They did it with no problems. "The current officers are doing just fine. You don't need me to run." First, have you actually told any of the current officers they are doing a good job? Second, we need at least one person to run for a director position, so we do need you to run. "I just joined the club. I can't run for office." Why not? Someone new with a fresh perspective is always needed. The board is not an "Old Boys' Club". If it is, it's because you let it be that way.

This past year has seen some musical chairs among the board. Some personal and health reasons intervened which resulted in some position shuffling. I think Tom Schulte is the only officer who has not changed positions since the last election. I guess you can't say we let things stagnate. While I agree that no one should hold an office for too long a continuous run, if people do not step up what is the alternative? Close down? Well if that is going to happen then I'll run for something again so I can have a hand in splitting up the money. Some groups use direct arm-twisting to get people to run for office. I prefer the method of making people feel guilty for not wanting to help. How guilty can I make you feel?

If you are interested in running for an office, feel free to contact Sherm, Jack or me. Maybe you know someone who you think would be good in office. Convince them and let us know. At the April meeting the committee will make its report and nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Let's hope that at the April meeting we not only have people willing to fill all available posts, maybe we even have an election, just for laughs.

Thanks,



Dave WB9BWP

PETS' DIARIES

A day as seen in a dog's diary:

8 am - Oh Boy! Dog food!
My favorite!
9am - Oh Boy! A car ride!
My favorite!
10 am - Oh Boy! A walk!
My favorite!
11 am - Oh Boy! A car ride!
My favorite!
Noon - Oh Boy! The kids!
My favorite!
1 pm - Oh Boy! The yard!
My favorite!
3 pm - Oh Boy! The kids!
My favorite!
4 pm - Oh Boy! Dog food!
My favorite!
5pm - Oh Boy! Mom!
My favorite!
7 pm - Oh Boy! Playing ball!
My favorite!
9 pm - Oh Boy! Sleeping in
my master's bed!
My favorite!

A day as seen in a cat's diary:

Day 1382 of my captivity...

My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat, while I am forced to eat dry cereal. The only thing that keeps me going is the hope of escape, and the mild satisfaction I get from ruining the occasional piece of furniture.

Tomorrow I may eat another house plant. Today my attempt to kill my captors by weaving around their feet while they were walking almost succeeded -- must try this at the top of the stairs.

In an attempt to disgust and repulse

PELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE FM SIMPLEX CONTEST

- A survey of the 15 logs received as of March 11, 2004 indicates that there were 33 participants in the second annual FM Simplex Contest sponsored by The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club. The slight change in the scoring, that reflected band participation last year, seems to have added balance to the band scores submitted. However, the extra 15 minutes for the 2-meter portion did not materially affect the scores reported for that band.
- The competition between clubs was relatively close in that three of the five clubs that participants assigned their scores to had scores in three figures. A switch of one or two scores from those that belong to multiple clubs could have swung the score to any of them. I hope

that this will encourage area clubs to organize and more aggressively pursue the Club Trophy Plaque next year. For those interested, it is on the wall by the demonstration gear at Amateur Electronics' Supply in Milwaukee.

Finally, the results and award certificates will be available to view at AES Superfest on April 2 and 3.

Thanks to all who participated from The MRAC FM Simplex Contest Committee.

KB9Q, Sherm (Chairman)

AB9CD, Mark

AB9EK, Tom

K9LCQ, Brian

K9VS, Jeff

73/Mark
KB9Q

these vile oppressors, I once again induced myself to vomit on their favorite chair -- must try this on their bed.

Decapitated a mouse and brought them the headless body, in an attempt to make them aware of what I am capable of, and to try to strike fear into their hearts. They only cooed and condescended about what a good little cat I was. Hmmm, not working according to plan.

There was some sort of gathering of their accomplices. was placed in solitary confinement throughout the event. However, I could hear the noise and smell the food.

More importantly I overheard that my confinement was due to MY power of "allergies." Must learn what this is and how to use it to my advantage.

I am convinced the other captives are flunkies and maybe snitches. The dog is routinely released and seems more than happy to return. He is obviously a half-wit. The bird on the other hand has got to be an informant, and speaks with them regularly. I am certain he reports my every move. Due to his current placement in the metal room, his safety is assured.

But I can wait; it is only a matter of time...

My GRID SQUARE

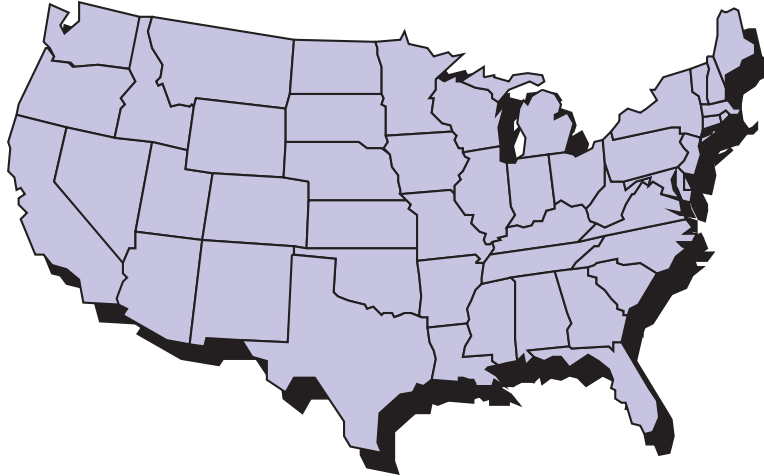
I have been wondering about Grid Squares. The article by Sherm, KB9Q, in the February 2004 'Chatter got me started doing a little work on that. How big are these things, and where are the boundaries of concern to us?

From Sherm's information the EN field in which (presumably) we all live is 10° in the north-south direction. Since each degree on the earth is 60 nautical miles long, that gives the field a north-south extent of 600 n.m. (nautical mile), which is 690 statute miles, or 1110 km.

The east-west dimension is 20 degrees of longitude. At the equator that turns out to be 1200 n.m. but at the poles that dimension is zero, and where we are here, at about 43°N that would be 1200 n.m. times the cosine of 43° which turns out to be 877.6

n.m., which is 1010 statute miles or 1625 km. So, around here the EN field is 690 miles "tall" by 1010 miles "wide."

The field is divided in 10×10 squares, which makes each of these



about 69 miles "tall" and in our latitude 101 miles "wide." The nearest crossing point between squares turns out to be within (a few) feet west of 70th Street, and about 0.2 miles south of Lincoln Ave. I checked on Google to find out how

the squares are numbered. It turns out that the 00-square is in the southwest corner of the EN field, with the count proceeding north to 09, and so on counting south to north, while proceeding toward the east. So after I did the numbering, I find that since I live north-east of that reference point, that puts me into EN63. Northwest of that point you would be in EN53, southwest in EN52, and southeast in EN62.

It was interesting to play with that, and I hope I did everything right.

73,

Hans, AE9G

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

WB9BWP	K9LCQ
WA9CGE	KB9Q
AE9G	KF9XL

Thanks also to Rita Doneis and Tom Fuszard for help in the proofreading dept. Our thanks goes to Dick Wood for making sure that the 'Chatter gets printed, stamped and mailed and to Mark Tellier who Emails it.

Thanks also goes to Howard Parks who administers our website.

Thanks also to Ted Stiller for obtaining and serving refreshments at

our meetings.

Thanks also goes to Tom Sherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for taking care of the raffle at the meetings.

Thanks Mark Tellier, Tom Czaja, John Kraak and Tom Fuszard who are our VEC's

Special thanks to Matt Karshna for help with resolving several challenges dealing with the production of the 'Chatter.

**Thank
YOU!**

CLUB NETS

Join us for our Friday night W9RH 10 meter net at:

8:30 PM at 28.490 MHz SSB. Then join us afterwards on our repeater for the Friday evening 2 mtr. net. It's at 9:00 PM at 145.390 MHz minus offset with a PL of 127.3 Hz.

EVENTS

* = VE Testing

March MRAC General Meeting
Thu. - Mar 25, 2004

Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

Tri-County Radio Club *
HamFest 2004

SUN. - MAR. 21, 2004

JEFFERSON CO. FAIRGROUNDS
JEFFERSON, WI

Michigan City HamFest

SAT. - MAR. 27, 2004

Michigan City Bingo Hall

TALK-IN: 146.970 - 131.8 pl

SuperFest 2004 *

FRI & SAT. - APR. 2 & 3, 2004

AES

Milwaukee, WI

Madison HamFest & Computer Show

SUN. - APR. 18, 2004

Mandt Community Ctr.

Stoughton, WI

T/I on 147.15MHz rpt.

Computer Show

SUN. - APR. 18, 2004

Mandt Community Ctr.

Stoughton, WI

T/I on 147.15MHz rpt.

April MRAC General Meeting

THU. - APR. 29, 2004

Redemption Lutheran Church

Milwaukee, WI

Cedarburg Swapfest *

Sat. - May 1, 2004

Circl "B" Recreation Center

Cedarburg, WI

Dayton Hamvention
FRI.-SUN. - MAY 14-16, 2004

Hara Arena

Trotwood, OH

<http://www.hamvention.org>

May MRAC General Meeting
Thu. - May 27, 2004

Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

Princeton HamFest & Computer Show
JUNE 6, 2004

Bureau co. Fairgrounds

Princeton, IL

T/I on 146.955- 103.5 PL

MRAC Field Day
SAT & SUN - JUNE 26 & 27

Pioneer Village

Cedarburg, WI

'CHATTER DEADLINE

The deadline for items to be published in **HamateurChatter** is 7th day of each month. If you anything for the 'Chatter, please get it to me before then.

Contact me by email at:

pancho@thepark.net

or by snailmail at:

Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA

1958 N. 38th St.

Milwaukee, WI 53208

or by phone at:

(414) 344-4694

VEC News

- MRAC VEC sponsored VE testing on Sat Feb 28, 2004. We only had 3 candidates, but all either upgraded or qualified for their initial license. Six elements were given, and five were passed (including two code exams). Those VEs who helped out at the session included the following:

- Tom Czaja KG9EE
- Ken Eggert W9MOT
- Bob Immekus W9CYI
- John Kraak KF9XL
- Hal Newton KB9OZN
- Mark Tellier AB9CD
- Jerry Thompson W9SFH

- Our next exam session is Sat Apr 3, 2004 at 9AM at AES. This session will be held in conjunction with the AES Superfest. Test location is the room behind the auto dealership. Enter the exam room from the parking lot behind the building at the west end.
- 73,

John (KF9XL)

- John KF9XL

VEC TESTING

- **Sat. - Apr. 3, 2004**
9:00 AM @ AES
(SuperFest)
- **Sat. - Apr. 24, 2004**
9:30 AM @ AES
- **Sat. - May 29, 2004**
9:30 AM @ AES

**AES = Amateur
Electronic Supply**

5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI



The **next Meeting of M.R.A.C.**
will be **Thursday - March 25, 2004**
at **7:00 PM** at:

Redemption Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

(Use the South entrance)

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please don't call the church.

The program for the
March 25th MRAC
general meeting

is

N/A